

EDA EXCELLENCE IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AWARDS 2006

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION



AMERICAN JOBS ★ AMERICAN VALUES





Dear Colleagues:

President Bush has said, “The role of government is to create conditions in which jobs are created, in which people can find work.” The twin goals of his Administration are to increase the productivity and wealth of the American economy; and to ensure that all communities share in economic opportunity.

The challenge for today’s state and local officials and economic development organizations is to fashion action-oriented, market-based strategies to ensure they are positioned not just to compete, but thrive in the 21st century’s global economy. The use of such best practices is a key strategy in achieving successful results.

EDA is proud to present the Excellence in Economic Development Awards 2006, which will be presented in the winners’ respective communities following EDA’s announcement of the seven winning nominations.

- Excellence in Urban or Suburban Economic Development
- Excellence in Rural Economic Development
- Excellence in Enhancing Regional Competitiveness
- Excellence in Economic Adjustment Strategies
- Excellence in Technology-led Economic Development
- Excellence in Community and Faith-Based Social Entrepreneurship
- Excellence in Innovation

The competition is open to nonprofit organizations, local, state and regional government entities, universities and colleges. A highly qualified and independent panel of economic development practitioners, academics, and government representatives will make the award selections. The nomination criteria and application information are provided on the following pages.

If you have any questions please contact EDA’s Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs Division at 202-482-2900. We look forward to receiving your nominations for the Excellence in Economic Development Awards 2006.

Sincerely,

Sandy K. Baruah
Assistant Secretary of Commerce
for Economic Development



Overview

The Excellence in Economic Development Awards (Awards) 2006 recognizes innovative economic development strategies of national significance. The Awards are designed to showcase best practices and highlight outstanding results. Nominations are made in specific categories provided below. A Selection Panel, appointed by the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development, then evaluates the nominations. The Awards are commemorative and will be presented in award ceremonies in the winners' respective communities following EDA's announcement of the seven winning nominations.

This brochure describes the rules and procedures governing the competition for the Excellence in Economic Development Awards 2006, including eligibility, selection criteria, nomination and selection processes, selection panel members, and other information needed to submit a nomination. A nomination form provided on page seven should be completed and included when you submit your nomination.

Key Dates for EDA Excellence in Economic Development Award 2006

EDA must receive your nomination by April 3, 2006

Finalist will be notified by May 15, 2006

Winners will be notified by May 30, 2006

EDA will telephone the finalists and winners and their names will be available on www.eda.gov. Winners of the EDA Excellence in Economic Development Awards 2006 will receive their awards at ceremonies held in their respective communities following EDA's announcement of the seven winning nominations.

Nomination Procedure

Nominations for the EDA Excellence in Economic Development Awards 2006 may be submitted by any eligible organization or individual, excluding selection panel members. A bona fide representative of the nominated organization must endorse the nomination. This individual will serve as the official representative of the organization for purposes of requesting additional information, unless EDA is advised otherwise. Nominations must be submitted in accordance with the instructions provided on page six.

Additional copies of this nomination brochure may be obtained directly from the Economic Development Administration, by downloading a copy from the agency's Web site, www.eda.gov or by contacting: the U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration, Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs Division, 1401 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20230; (202) 482-2900.



Selection Process

EDA employees review each nomination received for completeness and adherence to the rules of the competition. Each complete and eligible nomination is then forwarded to the selection panel and is reviewed by at least three selection panel members. Each panelist ranks the nomination on a numeric scale for each of the selection criteria.

The top three nominations in each of the seven award categories advance as finalists. The selection panel ranks the finalists, for consideration by the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development, using the announced criteria. The Assistant Secretary then selects the winners. If no finalist in an award category achieves the level of excellence contemplated in this award, the Assistant Secretary may decide not to make an award in that category.

EDA may amend the selection process from one year to the next, but shall not alter the rules for a given year after the initial announcement is made. EDA staff and the Selection Panel reserve the right to contact nominees in order to verify information submitted or to obtain additional information necessary to evaluate the nomination. Nominees are under no obligation to provide this information, but should recognize that failure to provide the information may lower their chances of being selected as a winner.

Eligibility

Eligible nominees include:

- **Nonprofit organizations;**
- **Local, state and regional governments; and,**
- **Universities and colleges.**

For profit firms and institutions are not eligible.

Nominated investments may include:

- **Specific projects of national importance; or,**
- **The cumulative activities of the nominee.**

Selection Panel

In any given year, the selection panel is composed of as many as seven individuals, selected by the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development in the following categories:

- one representative of the nonfederal economic development practitioner community;
- one member from academe;
- two representatives of the Economic Development Administration; and,
- three at-large members

Members of the selection panel may not be employees, officers, consultants, or contractors of any nominated organization. In the event such a conflict of interest is discovered, either the selection panel member shall be removed from the selection process or the nominated organization shall withdraw its entry. The Assistant Secretary may replace any selection panel member who resigns. The term of a selection panel member shall be one year.



Award Categories for EDA Excellence in Economic Development Awards 2006

Excellence in Urban or Suburban Economic Development

- The nomination utilizes innovative, market-based strategies to improve urban or suburban economic development results.

Excellence in Rural Economic Development

- The nomination utilizes innovative, market-based strategies to improve rural economic development results.

Excellence in Enhancing Regional Competitiveness

- The nomination enhances regional competitiveness and supports long-term development of the regional economy.

Excellence in Economic Adjustment Strategies

- The nomination helps communities plan and implement economic adjustment strategies in response to sudden and severe economic dislocations.

Excellence in Technology-led Economic Development

- The nomination supports technology-led economic development and reflects the important role of linking universities and industry and technology transfers.

Excellence in Community and Faith-Based Social Entrepreneurship

- The nomination advances community and faith-based social entrepreneurship in redevelopment strategies for areas of chronic economic distress.

Excellence in Innovation

- The nomination incorporates innovative strategies for maximum results.



Five Selection Criteria

Nominations will be competitively evaluated on their ability to meet or exceed the following selection criteria:

The nomination is market-based and results driven.

- The nomination capitalizes on a region's competitive strengths and positively moves a regional economic indicator, such as: an increased number of higher-skill, higher-wage jobs; increased tax revenue; or, increased private sector investment.

The nomination has strong organizational leadership.

- The nomination has strong leadership, excellent project management, and includes significant commitment of human resources talent to ensure the project's successful execution.

The nomination advances productivity, innovation and entrepreneurship.

- The nomination embraces the principles of entrepreneurship, enhances regional clusters, and leverages and links technology innovators and local universities to the private sector to create the conditions for greater productivity, innovation, and job creation. Provide demonstrative evidence that the nomination advances productivity, innovation and entrepreneurship.

The nomination looks beyond the immediate economic horizon, anticipates economic changes, and diversifies the local and regional economy.

- The nomination is part of an overarching, long term comprehensive economic development strategy that enhances a region's success in achieving a rising standard of living by supporting existing industry clusters, developing emerging new clusters, or attracting new regional economic drivers.

The nomination demonstrates a high-degree of commitment by exhibiting the following:

- High levels of local government or non-profit matching funds and private sector leverage;
- Clear and unified leadership and support by locally-elected officials; and
- Strong cooperation between the business sector, relevant regional partners and local, state and federal government.



Instructions for Preparing and Submitting your Nomination

- Your nomination may be submitted in only **one** of the seven categories.
- Your nomination should address each of the five selection criteria provided on page five. You may include **a statement totaling no more than five pages** to discuss the nominee's achievements in the five criteria.
- Please do not include any additional materials, such as promotional materials, annual reports, etc. Such items will not be considered by the selection panel.
- Your nomination may include as many as three letters of support. Each support letter must be **attached** to your nomination. Support letters that arrive after the submission deadline or separately from your nomination will not be considered by the selection panel.
- Your nomination may include as many as three print or electronic photographs. All photographs must be **attached** to your nomination. Photographs, in any format, that arrive after the submission deadline or separately from your nomination will not be considered by the selection panel. EDA is unable to return submitted photographs.
- Please provide an original complete nomination package plus **four copies** of your complete nomination, if you are not sending it electronically. If your nomination is sent electronically, please send just one email complete with all attachments.
- Your nomination may be sent by US mail, by a courier service or electronically. However, your complete nomination may be sent by only **one** of these methods. Nominees are encouraged to remember that issues may arise that could delay your mail delivery in Washington, DC. Delivery by a courier service such as FedEx, UPS, etc. is recommended.
- Courier or mail your nomination to: Attention: EDA Excellence Awards 2006
Economic Development Administration
Department of Commerce Room 7816
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20230
- E-mail one **complete** nomination package to: **awards@eda.doc.gov**
(Please do not send nomination in multiple emails. A letter acknowledging receipt will be mailed.)
- Nominations must be received by close of business on **April 3, 2006**.
- Electronic copies of this nomination brochure may be downloaded from **www.eda.gov**. Additional copies may be requested by calling EDA, Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs Division at 202-482-2900.

Please provide the information requested below and place this completed page on top of your complete nomination for the EDA Award for Excellence in Economic Development 2006. This page must accompany your nomination.

Organization name: _____

Street address: _____

City, State and ZIP Code: _____

Preferred telephone contact number: _____ Fax: _____

e-mail address: _____

Web address: _____

Check **only one** of the following to indicate the nomination category:

- ☐ Excellence in Urban or Suburban Economic Development
- ☐ Excellence in Rural Economic Development
- ☐ Excellence in Enhancing Regional Competitiveness
- ☐ Excellence in Economic Adjustment Strategies
- ☐ Excellence in Technology-led Economic Development
- ☐ Excellence in Community and Faith-Based Social Entrepreneurship
- ☐ Excellence in Innovation

Check **only one** of the following to indicate the nomination type:

- ☐ Organization's overall efforts, or
- ☐ Specific program or project of the organization:
Provide name of specific program or project: _____
- ☐ Yes ☐ No EDA is hereby authorized to publish a summary of this nomination if it qualifies as a finalist.
- ☐ Yes ☐ No EDA is hereby authorized to publish contact information, including address, phone, fax, e-mail and website, provided in this nomination.

For Agency Use Only. Logged by: _____

Date received: _____

Timely receipt of application ☐ Yes ☐ No

Statement(s) included ☐ Yes ☐ No

Number of support letters included _____

Date sent to Panel: _____

Nominee Certification

Signature of Nominee Representative: _____

I certify that I have the authority to represent the nominee organization in public matters. I also certify that, to the best of my knowledge, the substantive statements in this application are true. I understand that if this application is found to contain substantive and willful misrepresentations, the nominee will be disqualified from the award competition. [Your signature will be accepted on electronic submissions.]

Please complete the following contact information of Nominee Representative:

(This information will be used in contacting finalists and winners)

Print name of nominee representative: _____

Print title of nominee: _____

Representative's preferred telephone contact number: _____ Fax number: _____

E-mail address: _____

Confidentiality

The selection scores and content deliberations used to select finalists and winners will not be disclosed except to the extent provided by law.

Endorsements

The Award for Excellence in Economic Development is honorary only, and does not constitute an endorsement of any revenue producing goods, publications, or services the winner may offer.



Additional copies of the Excellence in Economic Development Awards 2006 application brochures can be downloaded from the EDA Web site at www.eda.gov. Additional copies may also be requested by calling EDA Headquarters, Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs Division at 202-482-2900.

Notwithstanding any other provision of the law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with, a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act, unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB Control Number. The OMB Approved Number for this Collection is 0610-0101 expires 06/30/2008.

The information is used by EDA to recognize outstanding economic development activities of national importance and to determine those applicants best meeting the preannounced criteria. No confidentiality for the information submitted is promised or provided except that which is exempt under 5 U.S.C. 552(b)(4) as confidential business information.

The public reporting burden for this collection is estimated to average 3 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden to: Economic Development Administration, Herbert C. Hoover Building, Washington, D.C. 20230, and to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs of Management and Budget, Washington, D.C. 20503.



American Jobs American Values

U. S. Department of Commerce

